



North West Water

Dawson House, Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LW
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F1/A12

13th June, 1978

To: Members of the Mersey and Weaver
Fisheries Advisory Committee:
(Messrs P.W. Jennings (Chairman);
J.S. Bailey; F. Burgess; F. Egerton;
A. Jones; R. Newton; J.A. Shanahan;
Dr. A.G. Kennedy Young; Dr. M. Pugh Thomas;
and the Chairman of the Authority (P.J. Liddell)
and the Chairman of the Regional Fisheries
Advisory Committee (T.A.F. Barnes) (ex officio)).

Dear Sir,

A meeting of the MERSEY AND WEAVER FISHERIES ADVISORY
COMMITTEE will be held at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, 21ST JUNE,
1978, at DAWSON HOUSE, GREAT SANKEY, for consideration of
the following business.

Yours faithfully,

G.W. SHAW

Director of Administration

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last meeting (enclosed herewith).
3. Monitoring of levels of radioactivity in migratory fish.
4. Fishing offences and prosecutions 1977/78.
5. Income from sale of rod and line licences 1977.
6. Review of discharge consent conditions.
7. Report by the Area Fisheries Officer on fishing activities.
8. Any other business.

See over ...

NOTE: (i) A copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee held on 2nd May, 1978 is enclosed for information.

(ii) Lunch will be served in the Members' Dining Room at approximately 1.00 p.m. The menu for the day is attached and Members attending for lunch are asked to indicate their choice of main course to the Member of the Restaurant Staff on duty on the 21st.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
MERSEY AND WEAVER
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

12TH APRIL, 1978

Present: P.W. Jennings Esq. (Chairman)
F. Egerton, Esq. R. Newton, Esq.
J.A. Shanahan, Esq.

19. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Mr. J.A. Shanahan of Bolton who had been nominated by the National Federation of Anglers, North West Region, as a successor to the late Mr. A. Ross.

The nomination had been confirmed by the Regional Committee on 6th February 1978.

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. J.S. Bailey, Mr. T.A.F. Barnes, Mr. A. Jones, Dr. A.G. Kennedy Young and Mr. P.J. Liddell.

21. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 18th January, 1978, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

22. FISHERIES INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

On 6th February, 1978, the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee had recommended that:

- (1) Application be made to the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food for continuation of the excusal from the licensing system for:

- (i) eel fishing with rod and line seaward of the high water mark;
- (ii) freshwater and eel fishing in inland waters of a surface area of not more than 1 hectare.

- (2) There be no variation in existing net licence duties in 1979, but that an investigation be carried out into the feasibility of the net licence duties being based upon the uniform percentages of the annual declared catches in respect of the type of net used, with a view to consideration for implementation on 1st January, 1980.

The above recommendations had been endorsed by the Policy and Resources Committee and the Authority, following which appropriate notices had been published in the press.

The Regional Fisheries Officer reported that after consultation with the Ministry and the Netsmen's Association on the feasibility of such a system of assessing appropriate net licence duties he had concluded that whilst desirable in theory the system was not capable of practical application.

RECOMMENDED:

That investigations concerning the proposal to base net licence duties on a uniform percentage of the annual declared catch be not pursued.

23. PILOT WARM-WATER COARSE FISH HATCHING AND REARING INSTALLATION, GREAT SANKEY

The Area Fisheries Officer reported on the encouraging progress being maintained in the pilot warm-water rearing experiments.

The Regional Fisheries Officer paid a tribute to the remarkable success of the scheme and informed Members that he was extremely pleased with the results being obtained by the Area Fisheries Officer and his staff in this project.

24. ANNUAL FISHING PERMITS ON RESERVOIRS

A report was submitted for the information of Members on the arrangements for the issuing of fishing permits on the various reservoirs within the area.

25. TERMINATED ANGLING LEASES

On 6th February, 1978, the Regional Committee considered a report previously approved by the Recreation Sub-Committee setting out proposals for dealing with terminated angling leases on the Authority's reservoirs. Those reservoirs had been placed in three categories, the third category containing those reservoirs where informal consultations had indicated serious local interest in the setting up of public angling facilities under direct Authority management or joint arrangements with local authorities. The Regional Committee were concerned that reservoirs placed in Category 3 could be designated either solely for public angling or public angling and other recreational activities, possibly to the detriment of existing lessees. On 27th February, 1978 the Water Management Committee in recognising this concern, agreed that no final decision should be taken to agree future activities on any Category 3 reservoirs until such time as the appropriate Local Fisheries Advisory Committees had considered fully the effects of the proposals on the fisheries and the existing lessees.

The following reservoirs were included in Category 3 within the area of this Committee:

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>District Council Area</u>
Clough Bottom	Rossendale/Burnley
Castleshaw (lower)	Oldham
Strinesdale Upper & Lower	Oldham
Brushes Clough	Oldham
Ogden & Kitcliffe	Rochdale
Windy Harbour	High Peak
Lamaload	Macclesfield

The Committee expressed grave concern for the interests of the angling associations active on the above reservoirs, particularly Lamaload, where the angling association was 4,500 strong and 150 day tickets were made available to the public each year.

The Committee considered that the local authority would find it extremely difficult to manage the fishery in the same manner as the existing association and that such a development would lead to a rapid deterioration of the fishery.

Ramsey Angling Society had been informed that due to operational considerations Horrabin Lodge reservoir would be had to be filled in resulting in the loss of a well managed fishery to some 90 anglers.

RECOMMENDED:

(1) That should the local authorities maintain their interest in the seven reservoirs listed above then consultation be carried out with the tenant clubs and associations along with the Chairman of the Recreation Sub-Committee and appropriate officers.

(2) That the decision to 'in fill' the Horrabin Lodge reservoir be reconsidered.

26. REPORT BY THE AREA FISHERIES OFFICER ON
FISHERIES ACTIVITIES

The Area Fisheries Officer presented his report on fisheries activities within the area since the last meeting of the Committee and commented on the surprising but encouraging catches of coarse fish on the River Irwell and the River Goyt.

The problems being experienced at the Tintwistle Hatchery were reviewed and the Committee informed that activities at this hatchery may have to be discontinued and operations undertaken elsewhere.

The Area Fisheries Officer commented on the stockings carried out by Angling Associations and the Authority during the period April 1977 to February 1978 and it was hoped that information of this nature could be included in a quarterly newsletter for the benefit of angling interests within the area.

A pollution incident on the Rochdale Canal during February 1978 had resulted in a fish mortality. The source of the pollution had been identified and the responsible Company had entered into negotiations with the Angling Association concerned regarding compensation for the loss of the fish.

Following a report that excavation work had taken place in the Liverpool Park Lakes resulting in the loss of many fish, the Area Fisheries Officer emphasised to the Members that he would welcome any information regarding work of this kind which could prove a hazard to fish stocks and he asked the Members to alert their Associations to this effect.

27 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 1978-79

The proposed dates for meetings of the Regional and Local Fisheries Advisory Committees for the Authority year 1978-79 were submitted for information, dates for meetings of the Advisory Committee being noted as follows:

Wednesday 21st June, 1978
Wednesday 25th October, 1978
Wednesday 17th January, 1979
Wednesday 11th April, 1979

28. INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
ANNUAL STUDY COURSE - 19/21 SEPTEMBER 1978

Preliminary details of the annual study course which was being staged this year at Lancaster University were submitted for the information of Members.

29. RIVINGTON AND ANGLEZARKE RESERVOIRS

The question of angling and recreation on the above reservoirs was discussed and the Regional Fisheries Officer commented that the quality of fishing on these reservoirs was capable of considerable improvement.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2ND MAY 1978

Present: T. A. F. Barnes, Esq. (Chairman)
 J. M. Croft, Esq. P. W. Jennings, Esq.
 E. P. Ecroyd, Esq. P. J. Liddell, Esq.
 J. H. Fell, Esq. R. A. Parkin, Esq.
 W. F. Hobson, Esq. L. B. Williams, Esq.
 R. D. Houghton, Esq. Mrs. D. Wilson
 G. Wilson, Esq.

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. T. A. Blackledge, Mr. T. M. Farrer and Mr. Wm. McKenna.

The Chairman informed Members that Mr. Blackledge had been re-admitted to hospital and the Assistant Director of Administration undertook to write to Mr. Blackledge conveying the Committee's best wishes for a speedy recovery to full health.

47. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 6th February, 1978, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

48. PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. South and West Cumberland

The Chairman of the South and West Cumberland Advisory Committee submitted the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 3rd April, 1978, and informed the Committee that his members had noted that the Authority would be considering at the appropriate time, the Local Committee's recommendation (Minute No. 19, 9th January, 1978) that there be no further increase in fishing licence duties to produce income over and above the estimated income figure of £284,000 for 1979, until this figure became less than 25% of the Authority's total expenditure on fisheries.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the South and West Cumberland Advisory Committee held on 3rd April, 1978, be received; the recommendation contained in Minute No. 28 (Water Resources Development - West Cumbria Industrial Supply Scheme) be approved, and the recommendation contained in Minute No. 29 (Fisheries Income and Expenditure) be considered under the appropriate agenda item.

B. Eden and District

The Chairman of the Eden and District Advisory Committee submitted the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 4th April, 1978.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Eden and District Advisory Committee held on 4th April, 1978, be received; the recommendation contained in Minute No. 21 (Fisheries Income and Expenditure), be considered under the appropriate agenda item, and the recommendation contained in Minute No. 22 (Fishery Dispute in the Solway Firth) be approved for submission to the Policy and Resources Committee.

C. South Lancashire

The Chairman of the South Lancashire Advisory Committee submitted the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 5th April, 1978.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the South Lancashire Advisory Committee held on 5th April, 1978, be received; the recommendation contained in Minute No. 23 (Fisheries Income and Expenditure), be considered under the appropriate agenda item; the recommendation contained in Minute No. 16 (Mitton Fishery - Match Fishing) be approved, subject to the match returns being modified to require total numbers and total weights only of fish caught; and that the recommendation contained in Minute No. 27, (Terminated Angling Leases) be approved for submission to the Water Management Committee.

D. Lune, Wyre and Furness

The Chairman of the Lune, Wyre and Furness Advisory Committee submitted the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 10th April, 1978.

In relation to Minute No. 26 (Morecambe-Heysham Sewage Scheme, crossing of the River Lune), Mr. Croft informed the Committee that a meeting had been arranged for 10th May, 1978, between the officers and representatives of fishery interests to discuss the measures for safeguarding the fishery.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Lune, Wyre and Furness Advisory Committee held on 10th April, 1978, be received; the recommendation contained in Minute No. 24, (Fisheries Income and Expenditure) be considered under the appropriate agenda item, and that the recommendation contained in Minute No. 25 (Investigations for Future Water Supplies to South West Cumbria) be approved for submission to the Policy and Resources Committee.

E. Mersey and Weaver

The Chairman of the Mersey and Weaver Advisory Committee submitted the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 12th April, 1978.

RESOLVED:

That with the addition of Mr. H. H. Shanahan's name to the list of members present the Minutes of the meeting of the Mersey and Weaver Advisory Committee held on 12th April, 1978, be received; the recommendation contained in Minute No. 22 (Fisheries Income and Expenditure) be considered under the appropriate agenda item, and the recommendation contained in Minute No. 25 (Terminated Angling Leases) be approved for submission to the Water Management Committee.

49. MEMBERSHIP OF THE LUNE, WYRE AND FURNESS
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Leslie Hill of Kendal who served on the Lune, Wyre and Furness Advisory Committee since its inception as the nominee of the Kent (Westmorland) Angling Association had submitted his resignation due to ill health and the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. J. M. Croft had written to Mr. Hill appropriately.

The Association had now nominated Mr. Robert Harper of Collingfield Farm, Kendal, as Mr. Hill's successor, and on 10th April, 1978, the Lune, Wyre and Furness Advisory Committee had agreed that this Committee be invited to confirm Mr. Harper's appointment.

RESOLVED:

That the appointment of Mr. Robert Harper of Collingfield Farm, Kendal, to the Lune, Wyre and Furness Advisory Committee, be confirmed.

50. FISHERIES INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The recommendations made by the Committee on 6th February, 1978 (Minute No. 39) were approved by the Authority on 20th March, 1978, following which the proposals had been advertised in the press as required.

At the closing date for objections, 28th April, 1978, 16 had been lodged, the majority of which related to the classification of brown trout, rainbow trout and char within the salmon and migratory trout licence.

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food would now consider the Authority's proposals, in the light of the objections, holding a public inquiry if necessary.

At their last meetings the Local Advisory Committees had considered the recommendation from the previous meeting of this Committee relating to the possibility of formulating a scheme of net licence duties based on uniform percentages of the annual declared catch in respect of the type of net used.

The Regional Fisheries Officer had advised the local committees that following consultations with the Ministry, and Netsmen's Association he had concluded that the system was not capable of practical application; each of the Local Committees had recommended that investigations concerning this basis for assessment of net licence duties should not be pursued.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation of the Local Committees be endorsed.

51. ENFORCEMENT OF LICENSING PROVISIONS

On 5th December, 1977, (Minute No. 36(2)) the Policy and Resources Committee recommended that this Committee investigate a system of appointing voluntary "licensing wardens" with the specific object of relieving the present full time fisheries inspectors and bailiffs of some of the work of licensing enforcement, and being quite distinct from the existing force of honorary bailiffs.

The officers had given consideration to the proposal and had concluded that in effect the Authority would be authorising an additional force of honorary bailiffs since it would be necessary to provide the "licensing wardens" with a bailiff's warrant in order for them to carry out their duties.

The difficulties in attempting to regulate the activities of the existing honorary bailiffs and any possible further force of "licensing wardens" was appreciated by both the Committee and the officers, and it was felt that the employment of a small force of part time bailiffs formally appointed to the Authority staff would be a better solution.

The Committee however, were of the opinion that the existing honorary bailiffs, some 78 in number, were doing a useful and effective job without perhaps attracting the publicity resulting from the institution of legal proceedings against offenders under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1975.

It was noted that it was the intention to enlist the co-operation of the other wardening services, such as the Lake District and Peak District National Park Wardens in as much as it could be appropriate for them to carry a bailiff's warrant during the course of their duties.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Policy and Resources Committee be informed that in the opinion of this Committee the increased enforcement of the licensing provisions can best be achieved by the employment of a minimum of a further four water bailiffs, on a part time basis.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the officers give further consideration to any additional steps which might be taken to enforce the licensing provisions and the organisation of the honorary bailiff force and a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee;

- (2) That in future fishing licences carry an endorsement indicating the right of a licence holder to request a sight of any other angler's licence.

52. CASTLE CARROCK RESERVOIR - PUBLIC ANGLING FACILITIES

The Committee considered a report on public angling on Castle Carrock Reservoir which had been submitted to the Recreation Sub-Committee on 17th April, 1978.

The Recreation Sub-Committee had agreed in principle that angling should be established at Castle Carrock Reservoir but were not satisfied that the scheme proposed in the report was economically viable or necessary, and considered that a more modest scheme should be prepared for implementation as a pilot study to give more information about the extent of the facilities needed in the area.

The Sub-Committee had recommended that the Water Management Committee be asked to include a scheme for public angling at Castle Carrock Reservoir in the Recreational and Amenity Programme and that a further report be prepared for the next meeting of the Sub-Committee setting out the costs of alternative schemes and the implications of introducing annual permits, club licences, etc.

The Committee concurred therewith.

53. STOCKS RESERVOIR -
PUBLIC ACCESS, ANGLING AND NATURE CONSERVATION

The Committee considered a report giving details of proposals for establishing various recreational facilities on Stocks Reservoir, which had been submitted to the Recreation Sub-Committee on 17th April, 1978.

It was noted that the Recreation Sub-Committee had recommended that the Water Management Committee be asked to include the scheme outlined in the report in the Recreation and Amenity Programme and had also called for further reports on each of the three aspects of the scheme, - public access, angling, and nature conservation.

The Sub-Committee had further recommended that the Nature Conservancy Council and/or the Lancashire Naturalists Trust be invited to prepare a scientific report on the setting up of nature reserves on the northern end of the reservoir and at Bottoms Beck, and that whilst the Sub-Committee favoured no material changes in the use and management of the areas proposed as nature reserves which were controlled by the Authority they concluded by recommending that consultations take place with the Lancashire County Wardening Service on the question of suitable wardening facilities for the reservoir area.

Concern was expressed at the proposed restriction of angling to approximately one mile only out of a total of six miles of reservoir bank and the problems that could ensue should the reservoir be opened to a multiplicity of recreational activities which might conflict. The Chairman of the Recreation Sub-Committee (Mr. Parkin) pointed out that the recommendations as formulated by the Sub-Committee were in effect a first step towards the development of the reservoir and should be considered as such.

RECOMMENDED:

That Stocks Reservoir being one of the best potential trout fisheries in the region, the Water Management Committee give primary consideration to its development as a trout fishery in 1979, further compatible recreational activities being considered at a later date.

54. RECREATION AND AMENITY PROGRAMME, PUBLIC ANGLING FACILITIES ON RESERVOIRS - INFORMATION REPORT

A report was received on public angling facilities on reservoirs and members noted that the officers were proceeding with their investigations on the lines indicated in the report which had been submitted to the Recreation Sub-Committee on 17th April, 1978.

55. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 1978-79

The proposed dates for meetings of the Regional and Local Fisheries Advisory Committees for the Authority Year 1978-79 were submitted for information, dates for meetings of the Regional Committee being noted:

Monday	17th July, 1978
Monday	13th November, 1978
Monday	5th February, 1979
Monday	30th April, 1979

RECOMMENDED:

That the meeting of the Committee scheduled for July 1978 be held on Thursday, 13th July and not on Monday, 17th July as listed above.

56. DRAFT NETTING RIGHTS - RIVER EDEN

RESOLVED:

That a progress report on the possible purchase of draft netting rights on the lower Eden below Carlisle be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYMERSEY AND WEAVER
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE21ST JUNE 1978MONITORING OF LEVELS OF RADIOACTIVITY IN
MIGRATORY FISH

1. On 18th January, 1978, (Minute No. 16) the Committee received a report on the possible effects on migratory fish of radioactivity in the sea in the west coast regions, and the monitoring procedures in relation thereto. A final report on the sea-trout samples collected during 1977 has now been received from the Radiobiological Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

2. The only gamma-emitting radionuclides detected were Caesium-137 and Caesium-134, plus the naturally occurring Potassium-40. A complete list of all the results obtained is given in the Appendix. The Radiobiological Laboratory commented on the results as follows:

"To put the results in radiological perspective, the acceptable daily intake (International Commission on Radiological Protection) is 30,000 pCi for Caesium-137 and 13,000 pCi for Caesium-134. Therefore assuming that a member of the public eats 2lbs of trout flesh every week of the year at the concentration of fish from the Duddon then the estimated radiation dose he/she receives is approximately 10% of that considered acceptable by International Authorities."

3. As a comparison, the Radiobiological Laboratory also provided figures for radioactivity levels in flounders taken from the Flookburgh area of Morecambe Bay in 1976. For muscle tissue these were:

Caesium-137 15.8 \pm 3.5 pCi per g wet weight

Caesium-134 2.0 \pm 0.5 pCi per g wet weight

4. The Radiobiological Laboratory would like to have more samples this year, covering the same overall area although on a reduced sampling scale with perhaps one sample close to Windscale, one from the North Solway and another from a Lancashire river. Arrangements are therefore being made for collecting fish from these areas.

MERSEY AND WEAVER
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

21ST JUNE 1978

River	Tissue	Concentrations of radionucleides in pico Curies per g wet weight		
		Caesium-137	Caesium-134	Potassium-40**
Border Esk	Muscle	9.9	1.2	
	Bone	5.3	*	
	Skin	5.9	*	
	Gut Cavity	7.8	0.8	
Cocker	Muscle	7.5	0.8	
	Bone	7.7	0.5	
	Skin	4.1	*	
Ehen	Muscle	20.1	2.4	
	Bone	8.3	*	
	Skin	6.2	0.7	
	Gut Cavity	11.9	1.3	
Calder	Muscle	16.4	1.7	
	Bone	13.3	1.0	
	Skin	6.1	*	
	Gut Cavity	9.6	1.3	
Duddon Estuary	Muscle	19.9	1.7	3.1
	Bone	10.2	1.1	3.5
	Skin	9.1	1.0	2.2
	Gut Cavity	8.2	0.9	
Kent Estuary	Muscle	12.7	1.2	3.3
	Bone	9.9	1.0	3.0
	Skin	12.1	1.2	2.6
	Gut Cavity	12.9	1.4	2.0
Lune	Muscle	13.9	1.7	
	Bone	16.4	*	
	Skin	11.1	*	
	Gut Cavity	9.9	1.5	
Ribble	Muscle	19.3	2.1	
	Bone	7.3	1.2	
	Skin	8.1	1.2	
	Gut Cavity	10.3	1.1	

* Caesium-134 present but below level of accurate measurement

** Potassium-40 levels measured only in Duddon and Kent fish

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

MERSEY AND WEAVER
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

21ST JUNE 1978

FISHING OFFENCES AND PROSECUTIONS 1977/78

1. The total number of persons prosecuted by the Authority for fishing offences during 1977/78 rose to 778 as compared with 362 in 1976/77, and due to the consequent considerable increase in the volume of work in processing prosecutions, administrative procedures have been streamlined to ensure that the more serious offences are brought promptly before the Magistrates.

It is the policy for straightforward licensing offences to be dealt with under the Magistrates' Courts Act procedure whilst in the more involved cases, Solicitors are employed to appear on behalf of the Authority at the various local Courts.

2. During 1976 in the Mersey and Weaver area, the Authority carried out a policy of issuing warnings to anglers found to be contravening the provisions of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 this being the first year in which anglers in this area were required to take out a rod and line licence, and it was considered that they might not be fully aware of the provisions of the Act and the Authority's Fishery Byelaws.
3. With the increased Bailiffing force operating in the Mersey and Weaver area in 1977, the Authority's normal policy of prosecution of alleged offenders was implemented and by the end of the season there was a marked reduction in the number of anglers found to be committing offences.

It is felt that the publicity given to Court hearings by the Press and Angling Associations, has proved to be very helpful. resulting in a substantial increase in income from licences sales.

4. The appendix to this report summarises for the information of members, the offences and prosecutions within the Mersey and Weaver area for 1977/78 in two categories:
 - (i) Those offences relating to the use of illegal instruments and bait; the passage of fish; close seasons and contravention of the Fishery Byelaws.
 - (ii) Licensing offences.

In addition other action taken in connection with incidents which did not result in Court actions is also summarised.

FISHING OFFENCES AND PROSECUTIONSMERSEY AND WEAVER AREA1ST APRIL, 1977 - 31ST MARCH, 19781. COURT PROCEEDINGS

	Offences		Total
	Illegal Instruments and baits; passage of fish; close season & Byelaws	Licensing Offences	
Number of Defendants	51	284	335*
Number of Charges	65	284	349
Total Fines Imposed	£560	£1,585	£2,145

2. OTHER ACTION

	Offences		Total
	Illegal Instruments and baits; passage of fish; close season & Byelaws	Licensing Offences	
Warning Letters	9	55	64*
Other cases not taken to Court due to lack of evidence; serious illness or being unable to trace the alleged offender	18	73	91*

* The Authority therefore took action against 490 persons for contravening the provisions of the Act and the Byelaws during 1977-78 within the Committee's area.

F1/A1

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

MERSEY AND WEAVER
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

21ST JUNE 1978

INCOME FROM SALE OF ROD AND LINE LICENCES 1977

1. A summary of income from the sale of rod and line licences is attached as an appendix for the information of members.
2. The summary compares details of licences sold during 1977 with those for 1976. The actual number sold shows an increase of 18.95% and an increase in the amount of income of 12.98% for the same period. Whilst the numbers sold have increased for all groups of licences the greatest increase is in Freshwater Fish licences (whole area 32.89%; former Mersey and Weaver River Authority area 33.96%).
3. It would appear that the concentrated licence checking effort by the bailiffing force in the Mersey and Weaver area is resulting in anglers in that area recognising the need to hold an appropriate licence.

F1/A2

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

MERSEY AND WEAVER
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

21ST JUNE 1978

ROD AND LINE LICENCE SALES 1977

Whole Area	Value £	1976		1977	
		No.	Amount £	No.	Amount £
Salmon - Season	12	1,908	22,896.00	1,799	21,588.00
Salmon to 31st May	6	65	390.00	29	174.00
Salmon from 1st June	7	2,318	16,226.00	2,751	19,257.00
Salmon - Season, Reduced duty	5	612	3,060.00	611	3,055.00
Salmon to 31st May Reduced duty	2.50	15	37.50	4	10.00
Salmon From 1st June Reduced duty	3	409	1,227.00	511	1,533.00
Salmon 7 day	2	1,880	3,760.00	2,131	4,262.00
Total Salmon and Migratory Trout		7,207	47,596.50	7,836	49,879.00
Non-Migratory Trout Season	2	19,871	39,742.00	22,002	44,004.00
Non-Migratory Trout Reduced Duty Season	1	3,705	3,705.00	3,923	3,923.00
Non-Migratory Trout 7 day	0.50	12,091	6,045.50	12,163	6,081.50
Total Non-Migratory Trout		35,667	49,492.50	38,088	54,008.50
Freshwater Fish and Eels, Season	1	18,097	18,097.00	25,179	25,179.00
Freshwater Fish and Eels, Season, Reduced duty	0.50	4,018	2,009.00	4,776	2,388.00
Freshwater Fish and Eels, 7 day	0.25	3,456	864.00	4,027	1,006.75
Total Whole Area Freshwater Fish		25,571	20,970.00	33,982	28,573.75
<u>Former Mersey & Weaver River Authority area</u>					
Freshwater Fish and Eels, Season	0.50	7,993	3,996.50	10,610	5,305.00
Freshwater Fish and Eels, Reduced duty	0.25	2,037	509.25	2,827	706.75
Total M & W Area Freshwater Fish		10,030	4,505.75	13,437	6,011.75
TOTAL		78,475	122,564.75	93,343	138,473.00

F1/B1

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

MERSEY AND WEAVER
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

21ST JUNE 1978

REVIEW OF DISCHARGE CONSENT CONDITIONS

1. On 8th May, 1978, the Water Quality Panel received the formal document produced by the National Water Council and entitled "River Water Quality: The Next Stage".

A copy of the document, which contains a foreword by the Chairman of the Council and a statement by the Rt. Hon. Denis Howell, MP, Minister of State, Department of the Environment, is attached hereto.

2. Paragraph 32 on page 7, contains the Council's recommendations that water authorities should put in hand a review of the present discharge consent conditions and details the suggested lines of such a review, and in this connection it is hoped to submit to the Water Quality Panel at the September meeting, a paper dealing with the question of long-term objectives for river water quality.
3. Arrangements have recently been made to involve representatives of the Confederation of British Industry, the National Farmers' Union and the Country Landowners' Association in discussions to assist in formulating proposals for such long-term objectives.
4. This report is submitted for the information of members and the outcome of the Water Quality Panel's deliberations in September will be reported to the following meeting of this Committee.

F1/A3

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

MERSEY AND WEAVER
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

21ST JUNE 1978

REPORT BY THE AREA FISHERIES OFFICER
ON FISHING ACTIVITIES

1. RIVER CONDITIONS AND FISHING

River flows were low during early March and were associated with freezing weather conditions. However, some good catches of bream and roach were reported from Winsford Flash and an 18lb pike was caught in Pickmere Lake. Trout fishing in the reservoirs throughout the area during April has been good. The rivers however, have not fished very well; the River Dane especially has fished badly for trout. Walton Reservoir, Lymmvalle and Bottoms Reservoir have all produced good catches of 1-1½lb trout. A 6lb 12oz Rainbow Trout and a 5lb 4oz Brown Trout have been caught at Tintwistle, and a 6lb 3oz Rainbow Trout at Worthington. During May, trout fishing on the reservoirs has continued to be quite good and the large trout introduced into Rivington, Roddlesworth and Worthington have proved popular. The river flows have been fairly low. Fishing on the River Dane in May, following trout stocking was very good. After the initial post-stocking mortalities, the Upper Weaver is fishing quietly.

2. HATCHERIES

(a) Tintwistle Hatchery

All trout fry - 6,000 brown and 20,400 rainbow were at swim up stage by 1st March. Yearling rainbows (5"-7") are feeding hard. The following supplies for trout were distributed during March and April.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Delivery</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Size</u>
March				
13/14	Eastern Division	1,000	Brown	10"-14"
		1,000	Rainbow	10"-14"
13th	Nostell Priory	30	Rainbow	10"-14"
28th	Biology, Rivers Division	125	Rainbow	6"- 7"
April				
1st	Central Division (Worthington)	200	Rainbow	10"-14"
May				
8th	Eastern Division	1,000	Rainbow	14"-16"
23rd	Moorlite AC	100	Rainbow	5"- 7"

1,000 10"-14" brown trout were lost when a net compound broke up during gales leaving no takeable brown stocks at the hatchery for supply. Poaching continues to be a problem at Tintwistle and police have continued to patrol the hatchery regularly at night.

(b) Pilot Coarse Fish Hatchery, Sankey

The 100,000 carp fry in the Hydrology Laboratory have thrived, those feeding exclusively on live food are growing three to four times faster than those on a dry food. Cannibalism appears to be a problem and hand grading of the larger fish has been carried out. With limited tank space available the cannibals have had to be kept in the solids settling tanks. Overall mortality rates during March have been low; excluding 5,000 fish killed when they escaped through a screen.

At the end of March, all the carp fry were moved to the Swedish tanks where they have continued to grow rapidly. By the middle to May, the average weight of the carp fry was 1,000mg (hatched on 3rd March, 1978, weighing 1.0mg). The last of the mirror carp grown in the hatchery last year were moved to Worthington Stock Pools. They had grown to an average weight of 70gm (approximately 5" long). Growth experiments are continuing in the hatchery to determine optimum densities, oxygen regimes and diets.

In the middle to May, chub brood stock were brought into the hatchery. Experiments are being carried out to artificially induce them to spawn.

(c) Worthington Stock Pools

During April chub brood stock taken from the Ribble were introduced to one of the tanks at Worthington. They are to be used at Sankey in the pilot coarse fish hatchery for experiments to artificially induce spawning.

In April all the stocks of coarse fish apart from the chub and carp were supplied to angling clubs for stocking.

After their removal, the tanks were drained and limed to kill any ecto-parasites, etc., that might have built up. These tanks will remain dry for 3-4 weeks when they will be filled and fertilised, ready to receive some of the carp fry from Sankey. It is intended that approximately 40,000 carp fry will be moved from Sankey to Worthington during June.

3. POLLUTION INCIDENTS AND/OR FISH MORTALITIES

- (i) During early March, Eastern Division were in the process of draining Arnfield Reservoir. They were to drain it to 3' deep and then my staff were to remove the fish from it. Unfortunately, Eastern Division misjudged how long it would take for the reservoir to drain and on the evening of 8th March, 1978, the reservoir emptied and the majority of the fish were killed in the process. Trout and perch were the main fish killed.
- (ii) 25 carp died of bacterial septicaemia in the pool off Dane-fields Road, Sale. The water is controlled by United Services Social Club. Liaison is being maintained with the club by my staff to follow the course of the disease.

- (iii) An unidentified disease killed 15 carp at Perrite Lodge in Chorley on 4th April, 1978.
- (iv) Against the Authority's recommendations, several thousand coarse fish were introduced into Amenity Pool, Nantwich. On 11th April, 1978, the majority of these fish were reported dying. Samples taken of the water in the pool by the Inspectorate staff revealed a lethal chloride concentration, the source of the chlorine being the brine springs adjacent to the pool.
- (v) Roach were reported dying in the lodges of the Strines Printworks Company at Strines on 11th April, 1978. Investigations by the bailiff and inspectorate staff suggested that the mortality was caused by the lethal breakdown products of a flocculating agent being applied to the lodges at the time.
- (vi) A mortality was reported in Walton Hall Park Boating Lake, Liverpool, on 24th April, 1978. Investigations by fisheries and inspectorate staff on the 24th showed that there were no signs of any dead fish. Samples of water from the lake examined by the Biology Section revealed that there was a massive bloom of blue-green algae in the water at the time. This was likely to cause diurnal fluctuations of oxygen concentration which could cause fish to come to the surface in a distressed state.
- (vii) 5,000 roach were found to have died in Newsham Park Boating Lake, Liverpool, during the third week of April. Samples of fish examined were shown to be suffering heavy infections of fungus, bacteria and protozoan.
- (viii) On 25th April, 1978, several hundred trout and coarse fish were reported dead or dying in the River Etherow between Compstall and Broadbottom. Investigations by the Scientific and Fisheries Staff showed that all the fish were in good condition suggesting that they were killed suddenly. The investigations failed to establish the cause of the mortality

Following this incident, a restocking of the lower Etherow was carried out by the Authority on 8th May, 1978, with 2,000 dace from the River Eden at Carlisle.

- (ix) Several 10" rainbow trout were killed in a farm pond at Audlem on 3rd May, 1978. Poor water quality and high water temperatures being the cause of the mortality.
- (x) A heavy saprolegnia infection of roach was reported on 5th May, 1978, at a reservoir behind the Barden Chemical Company. Algal blooms and associated diurnal oxygen fluctuations could have been the cause.

- (xi) Several hundred dead and dying coarse fish were reported on 15th May, 1978, in Cliff Brook upstream of the River Mersey. Investigations by the bailiff staff and Inspectorate staff confirmed that a mortality had occurred when a lodge was raised to allow top water and floating debris, from bank cleaning and maintenance works, to escape. Unfortunately a certain amount of solids also escaped causing the mortality.
- (xii) 30 perch were reported to have died in the St. Helens Canal at Newton-le-Willows on 13th May, 1978. These were found to be spawn-bound, indicating the cause of the mortality.

4. FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

During the period under review 13 requests for advice on the following fisheries matters were received:

Assessment of existing fish population	8
Pike control	2
Assessment with a view to improvement of fishery	2
Perch disease	1

5. STOCKING AND/OR RESTOCKING BY ANGLING ASSOCIATIONS

The following numbers of fish were introduced by Angling Clubs during the review period:

<u>Coarse Fish</u>	<u>Numbers</u>
Carp	1,831
Bream	1,834
Roach	3,322
Rudd	2,124
Perch	1,174
Golden Orfe	40
TOTAL	<u>10,325</u>

Non-Migratory Trout

Brown Trout	12,960
Rainbow Trout	38,390
TOTAL	<u>51,350</u>

6. STOCKING AND/OR RESTOCKING
BY THE WATER AUTHORITY

(1) Fish Grants from NWWA Stocks

The following numbers of fish were introduced by the Authority:

	<u>Numbers</u>
Rudd	100
Roach	4,316
Carp	1,284
Tench	127
Perch	30
Dace	<u>12,010</u>
TOTAL	<u>17,867</u>

(2) Fish transferred for Angling Associations
from one of their waters to another

The following fish were transferred by the Authority:

Roach	9,866
Carp	7,500
Tench	6,679
Perch	8,367
Rudd	2,200
Bream	<u>3,200</u>
TOTAL	<u>37,812</u>